



CALPEEK

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SPEAKERSHIP WAR: REPUBLICAN INTERNAL FEUDING.

Editor's note: The deal to settle the 7-week-old Speakership War is causing some major feuding within the GOP Assembly Caucus. Here's our update & analysis. P.S. Again we hear a deal is close, but we heard the same thing last week...

...What's going on inside the GOP Assembly Caucus should be made into a horror movie, "*Death Wish VI*," starring members Bernie Richter, GOP Leader Jim Brulte and former GOP Leader Ross Johnson. The co-stars are almost too numerous to list, but Larry Bowler and Trice Harvey are billed as gun slinging Brulte loyalists, ready to blast any GOP members who appears to be siding with Richter. For those who haven't been following this Speakership War, Richter has emerged as an alternative to Brulte --- and Brulte loyalists (led by Johnson and some of his buddies) are furious...

...Richter *may have* 2-3 other GOP members lined up in his corner. When combined with 39 Demo votes, plus GOP-turned-independent Paul Horcher, Richter could have anywhere from 41 to 43 votes to be Speaker. And yes, Richter is negotiating a deal (in writing) that would include power & resource sharing, but there would be a GOP speaker. (Sources say the deal that Brulte is talking about is verbal and there would be no speaker until one side has a 41-vote majority.) Sources say that once Richter has the final written deal, he'll give it to Brulte, to see if Brulte can pick up just 1 Demo vote. That's all Brulte needs to become speaker, but sources don't think any Demos will vote for him...

...What's all fighting doing to the GOP caucus? "Ripping it apart," is what a source told CALPEEK. It's gotten so nasty that phone threats have been made by Brulte-loyalists to political friends of Richter. It's doubtful Brulte is even aware of some of this stuff, because if he were, he'd probably stop it...

...As for Demo Willie Brown, insiders believe the former Speaker always intended to elect a Republican *of his choice* as speaker, under the most favorable terms he can get. Insiders say that while Richter is "a potential" next speaker, there are other GOPers who also have potential should Richter stumble. The list probably includes newcomer James Rogan of Glendale, Nao Takasugi of Oxnard and perhaps Bruce McPherson of Santa Cruz. Stay tuned...

GOV. WILSON'S \$56.3 BILLION BUDGET & STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS GET MIXED REVIEWS.

Editor's note: Gov. Pete Wilson's 5th State of the State address & his 1995-96 budget have received mixed reviews. Here is CALPEEK's analysis...

...Gov. Wilson's 2nd inaugural address, his 5th State of the State message and his 1995-96 "tough-love" budget probably would have gotten more public attention were it not for another one of those natural disasters that has plagued Calif. for the past 5 years. So *Calamity Pete's* State of the State address was seen live in L.A. for 15 minutes on only 1 TV station -- and that station broke away to cover the flooding -- leaving policy wonks & political junkies furious...

...The inaugural speech, his State of the State address and Wilson's \$56.3 billion 1995-96 budget reflect what the governor's advisers believe to be a desire by CA voters for major changes in the way government functions. Thus Wilson has taken a more conservative, tougher line on a number of hot issues which seemed to play to his advantage during the last election cycle. And when he threw out a line in his inaugural speech saying he wants a "Golden State" not a "welfare State," this just adds to the talk Wilson has *Potomac Fever*...

...And while Gov. Wilson took aim at some traditional

{Continued Next Page}

political foes (CA Trial Lawyers, CA Teachers Assn.) with proposals for no-fault auto insurance & tort reform; ending tenure for teachers; and major cuts to welfare; and promised help for political allies (CA Correctional Peace Officers Assn.) with more spending on prisons, the **centerpiece** of Wilson's State of the State message and his budget is his economic plan...

...Wilson proposes a \$7.6 billion (15%) tax cut spread over 3 years for both individuals and business. Wilson and his economic advisers say a tax cut will help stimulate a \$37 billion increase in State revenues over the same period of time because of CA's improving economy. While voters might love a tax cut, some economic experts say there's just no guarantee that a tax cut will have this kind of impact on CA's still fragile, but recovering economy. As others have pointed out, Wilson's tax cut plan mirrors the GOP Contract With America. Sounds good on paper, but will it work???

...Is there a better way to go? Yes. Even some Demos agree that lower bank/corporate taxes would help CA's economy. But cutting personal income taxes doesn't really help that much. A family of 4 with \$40,000 saves \$34 per year. That same family with \$100,000 gets a savings of \$275. Sources suggest slashing the sales tax is a better idea. And so is raising the tax brackets --- so that as individuals earn more, they aren't thrown into higher tax brackets. And Demo legislative leaders would like to cut various fees that have been raised over the years and restore the renter's tax credit. Hardest hit by UC/CSU fee hikes have been **middle income families**, many of whom vote Republican...

...While the legislature is certainly more conservative, especially the State Assembly, Wilson is going to need Demo support and thus the odds of some compromises loom in the future. But there's no doubt Wilson is in a more powerful position today than he was about a year ago when his reelection prospects were zero. Stay tuned...

CRP VICE CHAIR TO ADDRESS LINCOLN CLUB.
CA Republican Party Vice Chair John Herrington and Assemblyman Fred Aguiar will be the featured speakers Jan. 20 when the San Gabriel Valley Chp. of the CA Lincoln Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Industry Hills Sheraton. For info call Natalie Blanning or Sheila McNichols at (818)249-4205...

U.S. SEN. FEINSTEIN ASKS SENATE RULES CMT. TO DISMISS HUFFINGTON'S FRAUD ALLEGATIONS.

Editor's note: One week after Michael Huffington filed a petition with the U.S. Senate to overturn the election of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the CA Demo struck back with document of her own, asking that the Senate Rules Cmt. "summarily dismiss" Huffington's petition because it is based on what DiFi's legal team calls *speculation & innuendo*. Here is CALPEEK's analysis & commentary...

...The legal document presented to the Senate Rules Cmt. was part of a 15-page package that DiFi's DC office faxed to reporters. In addition to a 9-page legal brief written by former White House counsel Lloyd Cutler (Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering) and Joe Remcho (Remcho, Johansen & Purcell), there were newspaper clips, a copy of the certificate of election signed by Gov. Pete Wilson and a memo from opinion research expert Warren J. Mitofsky...

...Huffington's petition says he lost because there were as many as 170,000 fraudulent votes cast in the Nov. 8th election. This allegation is based on *projections* from data supplied The Voter Fraud Task Force, a group headed by former INS official Harold Ezell. If this data is accurate, and many sources say it is badly flawed, and 170,000 votes were thrown out, the odds that DiFi's margin would be cut by 165,000 is about **1 in a 100 million**, given that she got 47% of the vote to Huffington's 45% --- Mitofsky says. In other words, there's no way that DiFi got almost all those "fraudulent votes."...

...What about the data? Part of task force data claims 47 dead people voted in Orange, Alameda and Fresno counties. CALPEEK contacted all three counties. Here's what we were told. In Fresno, the registrar got 17 names. 9 were dead and no one voted for them; 3 were alive and did vote; 4 more were alive, registered, but did not vote; and 4 people with the same name all voted. In Alameda Co. sources say the task force failed to supply the names, but through KRON-TV, the registrar got a list of 9 "dead" voters. *Two were alive*. In Orange Co., a similar story. The task force never supplied the names so that a check could be made. The Orange Co. Register's DC office supplied a partial list of 9 "dead" voters from task force documents. Six of the 9 had permanent absentee voter status and these

ballots were returned to the registrar --- not voted.
Enough said...

...Will Huffington succeed? All of the data (not just the dead voter stuff) is so sloppy it's hard to see how any reasonable body of lawmakers could accept it as proof that the election was riddled with fraud. And as one election official told CALPEEK, "Tolerable human error does not mean fraud." Put another way, polling place volunteers do make some mistakes. Does this mean there was massive fraud? NO...

...Will Huffington concede the race? That's not likely, despite the fact that Republicans & Demos alike are getting tired of his whining. So why does he persist? Some believe the driving force behind his *never say die* attitude is none other than his wife, Arianna. She can't believe that he spent \$28 million of his own and still lost. And finally, this note: Who among all the Huffington consultants said: "*We have an unlimited budget, but it's not enough.*" Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: SOUTHWEST & SOUTH CENTRAL L.A. BECOMES HOTBED OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

Editor's note: In last week's CALPEEK, we gave a generalized overview of what could happen in the 1996 election cycle with regard to a number of State Senate races. This week we'll focus on political activity in L.A. County's Southwestern and South Central areas, two places where there's lots of movement & rumors...

...Of course most of the speculation centers on what happens if U.S. Rep. Walter Tucker III(D-Compton) is convicted on charges of political corruption. Originally he was due for trial in February, but sources are now saying the trial has been pushed back to the Fall. As we've mentioned before, those looking at the 37th C.D. seriously are State Sen. Diane Watson, Assemblymembers Willard Murray & Juanita McDonald and perhaps former Assemblywoman Gwen Moore --- all Demos...

...Another battle which is beginning to shape up is one which will give Senate PPT (President Pro Tem) Bill Lockyer(D) sleepless nights: incumbent State Sen. Teresa Hughes(D) vs. Assemblyman Curtis Tucker(D), both from the Inglewood area. In 1991-92 (just after the new remapping plan was unveiled), there was supposedly a deal worked out where Hughes would seek former Sen. Bill Green's 25th S.D. seat for 1-term, then

retire, letting Tucker run for the senate in 1996, when he would be forced out of the Assembly by term limits. There were witnesses to the deal, but now Hughes says there was *no deal* and she's seeking reelection. It puts Lockyer in a tough spot. Ditto Willie Brown, Julian Dixon and even consultant Michael Berman...

...Who is looking at Curtis Tucker's 51st A.D. seat? Inglewood School Bd. member Thomasina Reed, Inglewood Mayor Ed Vincent and West Basin Muni Water Dist. Bd. Member Mark Dymally, son of the former congressman/Calif. LG Mervyn Dymally. In fact, Dymally and U.S. Rep. Esteban Torres(D) backed a number of candidates for some of these obscure water district offices - and won a number of them last year...

...And because Willard Murray(D-Paramount) is out in 1996, there are a number of Demos looking at his 52nd A.D. job. The list includes Gardena Mayor Don Dear, Compton Mayor Omar Bradley, Lynwood School Bd. member Cynthia Green-Geter and Melinda Murray, daughter of Willard and an L.A. Co. Dep. DA. If she were elected (and assuming Kevin Murray is reelected), you'd have a *brother-sister team* in the Assembly. Very interesting. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

● **The Horcher Recall** - The recall against maverick Assemblyman Paul Horcher(I-Diamond Bar) is now on a fast track, but pro-Horcher operatives are said to be *striking back*. Recall workers say they've been contacted by 60th A.D. voters who said they've received phone calls urging them *not to sign* the recall petitions now being circulated. Wonder who's behind this??? As for all those recalls against Demo Assemblymembers who voted for Willie Brown on Dec. 5th --- only the recall against Mike Machado is still active, but it may be dropped if a deal is worked out in the Speaker-ship War. All the other recalls have dried up...

● **Orange Co. Update** - The fiscal situation in Orange Co. has become *darker*, with county workers facing layoffs and massive budget cuts being planned. Politically, Anaheim Mayor Tom Daly and Councilman Frank Feldhaus were recently served with recall papers, but the papers were not in order so recall backers have

to start over again. And there is a move being led by the Cmt. of Correspondence to have the Bd. of Supes appoint John Moorlach as the new county treasurer...

- **San Jose Council Special** - Due to the unexpected X-Mas time resignation of veteran Councilman Joe Head, there will be a special election Mar. 14 to replace him. Six candidates returned papers prior to the Jan. 10 deadline. They are Pat Dando, Steve Ferry, Carl Loeber, Mari Maben, Jerry Norve and Nancy Pyle...

NATIONAL AND STATE PARTIES SET CONVENTIONS.

Editor's note: Both the Democratic Nat'l Cmt. and the Republican Nat'l Cmt., as well as the CA counterparts will be meeting soon to take care of party business...

- The **RNC** Convention will be held Jan. 19-21 at the Renaissance Hotel in DC. Main items are the reelection of Haley Barbour as chair and the selection of San Diego as the site for the 1996 presidential convention. FYI: Lots of up-front and behind the scenes presidential politicking...

- The **DNC** Convention will be held Jan. 19-21 at the DC Hilton Hotel. Demos have already selected Chicago as the site for their 1996 convention. But in terms of selecting a new DNC chair, the latest news from DC is that U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd, the 3-term senator from Connecticut, will be the general chair and DNC Committeeman Don Fowler of So. Carolina, a past president of the Assn. of State Democratic Party Chairs (ASDC), will be the day-to-day chair in charge. If this deal falls apart, others who are looking at the DNC chair job include U.S. Rep. Bob Torricelli, the 7-term congressman from NJ; former Congressman Mike Synar of Oklahoma; former Michigan Gov. Jim Blanchard; or perhaps former White House COS, Thomas "Mack" McLarty. FYI: CA Demo Party Chair Bill Press is a candidate for president of the ASDC --- the same job that Fowler held some years ago...

- The **CRP** Convention is set for Sacto from Feb. 24-26. Because of CA's early and important primary, this CA convention will undoubtedly attract a number of GOP presidential contenders. And although there is no confirmation as yet, there is a chance at another one of those *presidential straw polls*. FYI: At this point, there is no known opposition to some of the leading contenders for party office, including John Herrington

(Chair); Michael Schroeder (Vice Chair); Shawn Steel (Treasurer); and Dave Titus (Secretary)...

- The **CDP** Convention is also in Sacto, but the date is now somewhat tentative because Pres. Bill Clinton will be at the convention. The date now set is Mar. 31 to Apr. 2, but it could be pushed up or back, depending on Pres. Clinton's schedule. Stay tuned...

NATE HOLDEN AT CURRENT AFFAIRS FORUM.

L.A. Councilman Nate Holden will address members of the L.A. Current Affairs Forum, 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, Jan. 23, Hyatt Regency Hotel, L.A. For info, Emma Schaffer (310)445-8862...

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